

A DISASTER BEGINS

Scientists around the world have reacted with fury and astonishment at Russian environmental recklessness which, they fear, will haunt the planet for centuries.

Revealing one of the best-kept secrets of the Cold War, Moscow has confirmed that it spent 30 years disposing of atomic waste by pumping directly into the Earth. Worse still, the pumping is still going on!

Already it is suspected to have leaked into rivers leading into the Caspian Sea and the Arctic Ocean, and has been blamed for the rise in cancer deaths in several locations where the waste has started returning to the surface.

The dumped atomic material is reported to measure up to 3 billion curies of radiation. This compares to about 50 million curies released in the Chernobyl accident, and 50 curies released at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

Even a small amount of this waste could totally sterilise vast areas of the northern oceans, destroying and contaminating the food chain for the entire northern hemisphere, and rendering vast areas uninhabitable for centuries.

Could this be the beginning of the fulfilment of the prophecy mentioned on page 42 in this issue?

(Source: *The Weekly Telegraph* [UK], 30 November-6 December 1994)



ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE TRIGGERING EARTHQUAKES?

Changes in atmospheric pressure may be enough to trigger major earthquakes off Japan's Pacific coast, a Japanese seismologist has warned.

Masakazu Outake points out that all 13 major earthquakes chronicled between the years 684 to 1946 occurred during the autumn and winter when atmospheric pressure is high.

His study of meteorological data going back to 1961 found that average monthly pressure in the region around Japan's southwest coast where the Philippine Sea crustal plate is moving under the Japanese main-

land, is around 1,000 pascals (10 millibars) higher between August and February than during the rest of the year. The extra force on the Japanese plate is equivalent to placing 100-kilogram weights on each square metre. This pushes down the Eurasian plate, but the extra air pressure has no effect on the Philippine Sea plate which lies underwater. The stress differential could be enough to trigger a quake.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 26 November 1994)

WATER FOUND ON THE MOON?

There is a strong possibility that water has been found on the Moon, in the form of ice.

"If this is confirmed, it will greatly enhance the prospects for human colonisation," said Dr Stewart Nozette, of Allied Signal at Alexandria, Virginia, USA, announcing the results of a recent lunar probe.

The findings of *Clementine*—a civilian-military spacecraft that orbited the Moon for 71 days between February and May 1994, taking more than two million colour pictures—are described for the first time in a recent issue of *Science*.

"There are many craters in the Moon's south polar region that are in permanent darkness because of surrounding mountains," Dr Nozette said.

"When *Clementine* passed over these, its radar detected what appears to be the characteristic signal of water."

(Source: *The Weekly Telegraph* [UK], Issue No. 180, 1994)

MYSTERY TUNNEL IN SPHINX

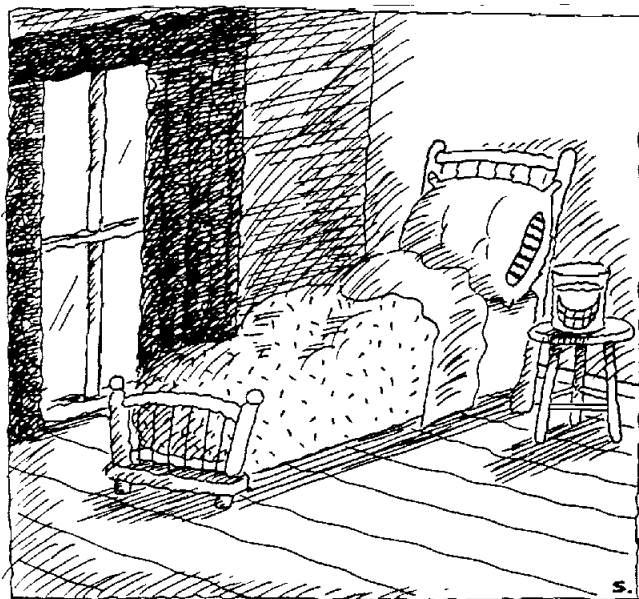
Workers repairing the ailing Sphinx have discovered an ancient passage leading deep into the body of the mysterious monument.

The Giza antiquities chief, Mr Zahi Hawass, said there was no dispute that the tunnel was very old. However, what is puzzling is who built the passage? Why? And where does it lead?

Mr Hawass said he had no plans to remove the stones blocking its entrance until at least February 1995.

The secret tunnel burrows into the northern side of the Sphinx, about halfway between the Sphinx's outstretched front paws and its curved tail.

(Source: *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 October 1994)



Cheshire cat sleeping

X-RAYS, OIL PAINTS, SOLVENTS LINKED TO MISCARRIAGES

Researchers at the University of Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Genetics Department, led by Dr Judy Ford, studied the exposure to environmental and chemical factors of 585 couples from pre-conception to live birth, miscarriage or nine months' infertility between 1987 and 1991.

The researchers identified a range of risk factors which had a significant effect on infertility and miscarriage, isolating a number of risk factors.

Men who, in the previous five years, had an unprotected X-ray of the lower back (no lead apron) with genitals exposed, were 428 per cent more at risk of being associated with miscarriage than those in a control group. (The normal miscarriage rate is 15 per cent of all pregnancies.)

The study found also that men and women exposed to chemical solvents such as household cleaning agents, oven cleaners, carpet cleaners, oil paints, glues, and other chemicals in the workplace, were far more at risk of infertility, miscarriage or birth deformity.

(Source: *The Australian*, 4 January 1994)

A HI-TECH FRAME UP?

The new book by renegade ex-Mossad (Israeli intelligence) agent Victor Ostrovsky, titled *The Other Side of Deception*, is starting to make waves.

As in his first book, *By Way of Deception*, Ostrovsky reveals some damning details of Israeli, American and British complicity in several major international events, such as the Gulf War.

One item in particular caught our eye. In it Ostrovsky describes a tremendously important Mossad operation involving a communications device that was planted deep inside enemy territories.

The device acted as a relay station for misleading transmissions made by the Mossad, transmissions intended to be received by American and British listening stations.

The digital transmissions originated from an Israeli ship at sea and were picked up only by this communications device, known as the "Trojan". The device would then rebroadcast the transmissions on another frequency—one used for outgoing official messages from the enemy country being targeted.

The Trojan was planted in Libya on the night of 17-18 February 1987 by the Mossad, operating from Israeli boats in the Mediterranean. The goal was to plant the

device in an apartment building in Tripoli, Libya, as close as possible to the Qadhafi command headquarters. The Mossad arrived at the apartment building (which had been pre-rented for six months) and took the cylinder to the top floor apartment of the five-storey building. In the apartment, the top of the cylinder was opened and a small dish-like antenna was unfolded and placed in front of the window facing north. The unit was activated and the Trojan was in place.

If someone decided to enter the apartment prematurely, the Trojan would self-destruct, taking with it most of the upper part of the building. The three men used for the operation returned to the beachfront and swam out to the waiting boats.

By the end of March 1987, the Americans were already intercepting messages broadcast by the Trojan. By using the Trojan, the Mossad tried to make it appear that a long series of terrorist orders were being transmitted to various Libyan embassies around the world (or as they are called by the Libyans, People's Bureaus).

Just as the Israelis hoped, the transmissions were deciphered by the Americans and used as a proof that the Libyans were active sponsors of terrorism.

Interestingly, the French and Spanish intelligence agencies were not buying into these new sources of information. To them it seemed suspicious that suddenly, out of the blue, the Libyans, who had always been careful in the past, would start advertising their future actions. They also found it suspicious that, in several instances, Mossad reports were worded similarly to coded

Libyan communications.

According to Ostrovsky, *Operation Trojan* was one of Israeli intelligence's greatest successes. It resulted in Libya being falsely blamed for virtually every terrorist attack for nearly a decade, including the La Belle discotheque bombing in West Berlin on 5 April 1987.

Ostrovsky's book has certainly upset the Israelis, with public calls for his assassination being made by several prominent officials, including Josef Lapid, the director-general of Israel's government-owned national broadcasting system.

Lapid, a frequent spokesperson for the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, made his unprecedented call for the assassination of Ostrovsky on Israeli TV, and in the pages of *Ma'ariv*, Israel's largest daily newspaper, and repeated his official invitation to murder Ostrovsky on Canadian national television in October 1994.

Lapid describes Ostrovsky as "the most treacherous Jew in modern history".

(Source: *The Other Side of Deception*, *The Spotlight*, 28 November 1994)

SUPER HI-TECH SPYING

Michael Frost, a former specialist with Canada's government spy agency, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), has disclosed that the US National Security Agency (NSA) implanted tiny microphones in the chests of pigeons that roosted on the window-ledges of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, and successfully monitored the conversations of the officials inside.

(Source: *The Spotlight*, 19 December 1994)



THE NEW ELECTRONIC ROADBLOCK

Sleepy Hollow, Illinois — A barrier of police cars, dozens of officers with guns trained on an onrushing car—that's the traditional way of bringing a high-speed auto chase to a halt, but those are about to go.

The new improved, less brutal version is a 42-inch plastic 'pancake' riddled with electrodes.

Called the Anti-Vehicle Electronic Countermeasure, or AVECM, the discs are deployed on the road surface before the suspect arrives. As the car passes over an AVECM, electric discharges scramble the vehicle's engine controls and associated circuitry. The car stops and cannot be restarted for some time.

(Source: *Popular Mechanics*, February 1995)

PRESS MUZZLED IN FRANCE

Alain Marsaud, a member of the French Parliament, has introduced a measure that would mandate that "any information relating to a person who is the subject of an official inquiry, or under judicial investigation, can't be published, except with that person's specific permission".

In other words, the media can't report that politicians and others suspected of corruption are under investigation.

There are a lot of people in France today who might support this measure—particularly a bevy of politicians who are under investigation at this time, and others who are about to fall under public scrutiny for possible misdeeds.

(Source: *The Spotlight*, 3 January 1995)

THE NEW ENEMY IN AUSTRALIA

Counter-terrorist exercises have taken a sinister new turn in Australia. Instead of the imaginary enemies being foreign, Hollywood-style terrorists, the new "baddies" are Australian citizens who start agitating on the subject of "foreign ownership".

Exercise *Tropic Punch* is described as a "protracted national counter terrorist exercise". It was held between 14 September and 20 October 1994, and was centred primarily in Queensland, specifically in Cairns and south-east Queensland.

According to a leaked document about the exercise, "an imaginary extremist group incensed at increasing foreign ownership of Australian business and resources... embarks, in the initial phase, on a terror campaign to force State and Commonwealth Governments to take remedial action. When this fails to achieve the desired result, the group turns to other options in politically motivated violence. This signals the activation of the National Anti-Terrorist Plan, with the Queensland Police Service, State Government and Commonwealth Government responding to the incident and seeking to negotiate the safe release of the hostages."

For those interested, the level of foreign ownership of Australian resources and business is well over 90 per cent! But don't go talking about it, will you.

(Source: *Extracted from release, dated 13 September 1994, leaked from the Queensland Police Service, Media and Public Relations Branch, Police Headquarters, Roma Street, Brisbane, Qld, Australia*)

EXPLODING STAR MAY HAVE KILLED THE DINOSAURS

By now NEXUS readers must have quite a pile of theories on what killed the dinosaurs—meteorites, oxygen shortage, ice ages, viruses, cave-dwellers, or worse.

According to Dr David Schramm, an astrophysicist at the University of Chicago, an exploding star could have killed 95 per cent of the Earth's species 225 million years ago by destroying the ozone layer and bathing the planet in radiation.

All it would take is a supernova explosion in the vicinity of 30 light years to wipe out virtually all life on Earth, he said.

Dr Schramm used mathematical models to develop his theory of massive extinction caused by a supernova blast and now seeks evidence to support it in the chemical signature of fossils from the period.

(Source: *The Australian*, 4 January 1995)

PLO BOOK SPARKS ISRAELI SCANDAL

A political scandal has erupted in Israel after allegations that the Labour Party conspired with the then-outlawed PLO to defeat the right-wing Likud and win the 1992 general elections.

The crisis was triggered by the publication of memoirs by a senior PLO negotiator, Mahmoud Abbas, in which he alleges that the present Health Minister, Ephraim Sneh, held a series of pre-election meetings with a leading member of the PLO at which the Labour Party urged the PLO to block progress at peace talks in Washington, and thus deny Likud any campaign advantage.

Labour won the 1992 election, and in September 1993 signed a peace accord with the PLO. The memoirs also claim that Yitzhak Rabin was an attendee at one of the meetings.

(Source: *The European*, 13-19 January 1995)

DEATH BY POLITENESS

This item should probably have gone in the Twilight Zone section of NEXUS, but we ran out of room and put it here instead.

Polite Japanese risk death by bowing. At least 24 Tokyo residents have died in the last five years while bowing to each other.

Five fell under trains after head butts (presumably concussed), seven died in kerbside and escalator collisions, and many more have been injured in revolving doors. As a result, the city has had to introduce safe "Greetings Zones".

(Source: *D. Record*, 25 June 1994)



AMERICAN EXPRESS BANK INTERNATIONAL FOUND GUILTY OF LAUNDERING DRUG MONEY

During the early part of 1980, Dr John Coleman published a monograph entitled, "Dope International Limited". On page 17 of that work, he wrote as follows:

"One of the largest money-laundering companies in the world is American Express, a household name in the travel business. Edmond Safra (see also "Dope, Incorporated" article this issue) who supplied tons of gold to finance the China opium sales through Hong Kong via his Geneva-based Trade Development Bank, recently sold his bank to American Express so that he could get on its board. American Express was briefly investigated by the US Attorney General Edwin Meese, but given the immense power of the company, don't expect any indictments to be handed down..."

"In 1990, when I was ready to publish my book, *The Committee of 300*, I was advised to omit references to American Express being involved in money laundering up to their necks. I was told that I would never be able to prove it. I elected to go ahead anyway and I accused American Express of drug money laundering on a vast scale..."

Now, 14 years later, an American Express subsidiary, the American Express Bank International, has been fined a record US\$50 million by a Houston, Texas, court after pleading guilty to laundering drug money for a Colombian drug ring that ran hundreds of tons of cocaine into the United States.

Funny thing though, the prosecutor in the case, US Attorney Gayneville Griffin Jones, said the government would not seek to press criminal charges against American Express executives.

(Source: *Dr John Coleman's World In Review*, Vol. 3, No. 12, December 1994)

1995 — YEAR OF THE QUAKE?

There is increasing speculation amongst seismologists that the 'big one' is not far off. Many suspect that both California and Japan are already 'overdue' for such a quake. Already this year there has been, on average, one earthquake of greater than size 6.0 on the Richter scale every two and a half days, and all of these on the Pacific Rim. Japan, which normally has 30-40 quakes felt by humans per year, has already experienced 10 such quakes in as many days.

(Source: AP, Tokyo, 11 January 1995)

"THE CONTINUING TERROR AGAINST LIBYA"

By Fan Yew Teng. Published by Egret Publications, Kuala Lumpur, 1993 (119 pp). Reviewed by Pip Hinman.

Apart from Jonathan Bearman's 1986 scholarly work, *Qadhafi's Libya*, there has been very little published about this north African country of 3 million people which has dared to thumb its nose at the West. This makes Fan Yew Teng's study especially welcome and useful.

Teng argues a convincing case that, far from being an international terrorist, Libya has been one of the main targets of the terrorism of the US Government. Since the 1969 revolution in which the US puppet, King Idris, was overthrown, Libya has been singled out by the West as one of the "bad" Arab states.

For 25 years the US and its allies have waged a covert and overt war against Libya. This has included a series of CIA-orchestrated assassination attempts on Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi (such as the 1986 bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi in which 100 people were killed, including Qadhafi's adopted daughter), provocative incursions into Libyan territorial waters by the US Navy, the attempt to blame Libya for the 1988 disaster when a Pan Am jumbo blew up over Lockerbie in Scotland, and the 1992 United Nations decision to impose economic sanctions on Libya.

Why is the US waging war on Libya? Because, as Teng argues, not only did it kick out a puppet regime, it nationalised the West's oil companies, abolished the US and British bases and insisted on just oil prices, setting an example for the rest of the OPEC countries. Libya has (despite some inconsistencies such as Chad and Sudan) supported anti-imperialist Third World movements including the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, the ANC in South Africa and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Italy colonised Libya from 1911 to 1943, during which time the Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini organised a mass migration program intended to crush any nationalist resistance and ensure control over this strategic oil-producing country. Winston Churchill, before the Second World War, was happy to cultivate a partnership with Mussolini, whom he described as "the great law-giver among living men for his anti-Communist stand". By 1931, more than 750,000 Libyans had been killed resisting Italy's occupation.

After World War II, Britain, France and the United States maintained de facto control of Libya. As one of the outposts for the control of north-east Africa and the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, Libya remained a strategic asset. (The US had, by that time, spent US\$100 million on developing its first airbase in Africa, the Wheelus airfield, on the outskirts of Tripoli.) King Idris proclaimed Libya's formal independence on 24 December 1951. According to renowned South African author Ruth First, Libya "was perhaps the poorest country in the world. The battles of the Second World War had devastated what infrastructure had been built and disrupted the economic life of even the Bedouin communities ... there had been virtually no education system capable of preparing men for government and administrative service." This allowed the king to preside over 11 corrupt governments over a period of 17 years.

Western governments and capital had unrestricted access to Libya's bases and oil. During the Korean War, Wheelus was used by the US Strategic Air Command, later becoming a primary training ground for NATO forces. For the West, Libya was the only source of mid-eastern oil that remained unaffected by the long-term closure of the Suez Canal. By 1967, US private investment in Libya stood at US\$456 million, the second highest after South Africa.

This is some of the fascinating—but rather under-publicised—history which forms the backdrop to the 1st September 1969 bloodless revolution in which the Free Unionist Officers, under the command of Qadhafi, took power. A few days later, the new government announced it would not renew the foreign base agreements and that 51% of foreign banks would be nationalised. In 1973, Libya nationalised 51% of all oil companies, including the subsidiaries of Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, Socal and Shell. It also doubled the price of its crude oil. In 1974, it nationalised three US oil companies and announced an oil embargo of the US.

This forms the backdrop to more recent US economic and military attacks on Libya. Teng has put together an informative chronology of events and unanswered questions surrounding the Lockerbie disaster and gives some detail of the disastrous effects of the economic sanctions. He goes to some effort to detail the US hypocrisy in branding Libya a "terrorist" state and quotes from a variety of outspoken democratic rights campaigners including Alexander Cockburn, Noam Chomsky, Basil Davidson and Ruth First.

Libya is one Arab country in which the population as a whole has benefited from oil revenue. The US, France and Britain have never forgiven Qadhafi for kicking them out, and until he is replaced by another King Idris, Teng argues, there will be no let-up to the anti-Libya campaign.

(Source: *Green Left Weekly*, 14 December 1994)